

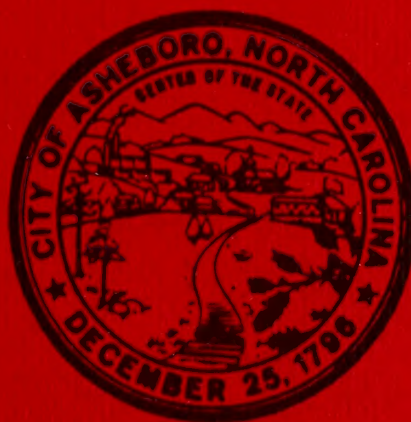
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# RECREATION and OPEN SPACE PLAN

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City of Asheboro  
North Carolina

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ADMINISTRATION

The administrative set-up of Asheboro's recreation program includes a Recreation Director, a maintenance crew, and an inactive Recreation Advisory Committee. The labor of administering recreation programs and maintaining and

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Recreation Plan is to determine the recreation needs and make plans to improve the level of recreation services in Asheboro. Also, this report will attempt to answer the questions on the minds of many citizens and local officials. (Is recreation solely the purchasing and equipping of parks, and if so, why aren't the existing parks satisfying the needs of the Citizens?). This will be accomplished by inventorying all recreation facilities and programs and noting their deficiencies, questioning the administration of the existing recreation program, and listing specifications that are necessary to deliver these services and satisfy the citizens' needs.

The word recreation has many meanings to many people, but a consensus definition would be "a leisure time activity motivated by satisfaction or pleasure derived from it." This would cover everything from a very physical midget league game to a class in cake decorating, to a very competitive game of chess. Consequently, recreation can be enjoyed by the individual or by groups of any size, age, and sex. Extensive and expensive equipment may be utilized or no equipment at all.

Recreation should not and cannot be thought of any longer as a luxury that the individual or the government puts at the bottom of the priority list. Recreational activities are increasingly being extolled as therapeutic outlets by physicians, psychiatrists, sociologists, and law enforcement experts. Asheboro should be aware of these trends and its recreational needs should seek to provide programs for individuals and groups alike in this respect. With increasing leisure time, recreation programs have come to be regarded more as a necessity rather than a luxury.

## ADMINISTRATION

The administrative set-up of Asheboro's recreation program includes a Recreation Director, a maintenance crew, and an inactive Recreation Advisory Committee. The labor of administering recreation programs and maintaining and

developing recreation facilities is provided by the Recreation Director and City Manager. During the summer, part-time personnel and volunteers are utilized. The above procedure is workable; however, Asheboro is not utilizing one of its most valuable tools which is the Planning Board and the Community Development Staff. In the past there has been little communications between the Recreation Department and the Community Development Staff. By-products of this lack of communications are inadequate citizen participation and improper location of existing facilities.

#### BUDGET

The funding of the recreation program in Asheboro was, until recently, accomplished by a five cent tax levy, but also by contributions of time and money. The Recreation Fund has now been merged with the General Fund and the special tax levy has been combined with the General tax levy. Presently, the City has \$400,000 (capital reserve funds) available for recreational use, as well as \$144,153 (community development hold harmless funds) available in the community development budget. The monies are earmarked for land acquisition and site improvement. Salaries for the Recreation Director, athletic officials and maintenance come from the operating budget, which are funds attained from the general tax levy.

#### EXISTING RECREATION IN ASHEBORO

To properly evaluate the status of recreation in Asheboro at the present time, the past system of providing recreation should be examined. First, recreation has not always been one of the major concerns of local government. The task of providing recreation has been accepted by private groups (Asheboro Memorial Foundation, private country clubs, and industries) who had dictated the locations of Asheboro's largest recreation facilities. The physical barriers in establishing recreation in Asheboro have played an important role



and continue to provide a threat to future programs.

The forthcoming analysis of existing recreation facilities include all the facilities that are being used to meet the daily needs of Asheboro's citizens. This means that facilities provided by all levels of government (Federal, State, and Local) are included. Also included are private agencies who provide public service as well as private resources intended only for the use of members or selected groups. Commercial resources, where they exist, must also be taken into account. While there are differences in the various types of agencies, they all contribute to meeting the demand for facilities. Both private and public recreation agencies have a responsibility to the overall needs of the recreation program, although their functions are quite different from one another. The private agency is characterized by freedom to take rapid action, closer association with church organizations and special fund solicitation for implementing special programs for groups with special needs. The public agency still has the ability and responsibility for providing large area and facility resources beyond the means of private agencies.

#### CITY-OWNED PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS "PARKS"

- A. Frasier Park -- 4.1 acres -- S. Park, Holly-Wainman Street Small Neighborhood Park
- B. Hammer Memorial Park -- 1.1 acres -- Glenwood Road Neighborhood playground
- C. Westwood Park Water Treatment Plant -- 4.9 acres -- Winslow Street. Undeveloped -- possibility of neighborhood playground.
- D. Redding Road and Avondale Road Park -- 3.7 acres undeveloped -- steep with culvert -- has never been used as a park.
- E. Shannon Road and Avondale Road Park -- 2.5 acres -- undeveloped -- steep, rutty -- has never been used as a park.
- F. Park Street Park -- .8 acres -- South Park Street family picnic area only.
- G. Pump Station #1 -- Dump yard site -- 10.7 acres -- West Street -- Undeveloped -- never used as a park.

- H. Memorial Park -- this park has been donated to the City by Asheboro Memorial Foundation. The park consists of a Little League ball field, eight tennis courts, a 75' x 120' T-shaped pool, a wading pool, three picnic shelters, a building with one large room and dressing rooms, four horseshoe courts, and an equipment-tennis pro shop building. This area is located on South Church Street.
- I. Lake Areas -- 878.76 acres. The surrounding areas have not been developed for picnicing and other recreational facilities, because presently, fishing and small boating is allowed. (The City owns limited properties surrounding the lakes)
- J. Asheboro Nine-Hole Municipal Golf Course
- K. Tucker Street Mini-Park
- L. Asheboro Public Housing Mini-Park areas
- M. Kiwanis Park

#### COUNTY RECREATION

Presently, there is no County Recreation program. Several of the small towns such as Franklinville, Ramseur, Randleman, have endeavored to have some summer recreation even though it might consist entirely of Little League and/or other ball leagues.

There are no County Parks in Randolph County, other than the Uwharrie National Forest and the State Zoo. However, there are State Parks which serve Asheboro:

Morrow Mountain State Park is located in Stanly County near Albemarle, some forty miles from Asheboro. This park covers approximately 4,000 acres in the Uwharrie Mountains on the banks of the Pee Dee, and is one of the outstanding scenic attractions of the Piedmont Section.

This park offers a swimming pool, bathhouse, boathouse, picnic area, tent and trailer camping, vacation cabins, restaurants, recreation lodge for meetings, lectures and other gatherings, nature trails and a park museum.

Duke Power State Park lies in the middle of one of North Carolina's heaviest population centers, approximately sixty miles from Asheboro. This park contains



1,328 acres of woods and water and is located on the Iredell County shores of Lake Norman, on the Catawba River, near Troutman, North Carolina, just north of Charlotte.

Only part of the 1,328 acre tract made available to the State by Duke Power Company is in use now. The heart of the developed portion is a 33 acre lake backed up by a dam across one of the fingers of Lake Norman. A swimming area with approximately 400 yards of sand beach, a diving tower and bathhouse provide excellent swimming and beyond the swimming area, the lake is available for boating, fishing, etc. Also, for hikers and campers there are 150 campsites plus numerous picnic areas.

Other outdoor recreation opportunities for the citizens of Asheboro are found at Badin Lake, formed by the Badin Dam of the Aluminum Company of America; River Haven and Lake Tillery. All three of these areas offer fishing, boating, small game hunting, and picnic opportunities.

Also located at Badin Lake is the beautiful Badin Country Club, a golfer's haven, which is open to the public.

### The State Zoological Park

The State Zoological Park is currently under construction on Purgatory Mountain approximately seven miles outside the city limits of Asheboro. Asheboro, long a wild bird sanctuary, is soon to become the zoological capital of the world with this new facility. This will be the largest complex of its kind anywhere, having more than 1,100 acres of mountains, open fields, and ranges, for exotic and native animals. A seven-mile monorail system is planned to carry the visitors from the animal shelters to the Botanical Gardens and the Children's Zoo, where youngsters may pet, feed, and fondle tame and gentle animals. There will be camping and dining facilities at the park.

### Golf Courses and Country Clubs

A. Asheboro Country Club is a private club on Highway 64 west of the

City. The facilities include a 18-hole course; a dining room; ballroom; a teen room; an olympic swimming pool; a wading pool; four (composition) tennis courts; a wooded picnic area; and a 20-acre lake for fishing and boating.

- B. Uwharrie Golf Club is a beautiful privately owned area. The course has similar facilities as at Asheboro Country Club.
- C. Pinewood Country Club is an 18-hole golf course with similar facilities as Asheboro and Uwharrie Golf Courses.
- D. Asheboro Municipal Golf Course is a 9-hole course open to the public.

#### Commercial Recreation

- A. Arcard Billiard Parlor with nine tables and concessions.
- B. All-Star Bowling Lane, with 24 lanes, a restaurant, a slot-car race track and two bumper-bowling tables. This is the only bowling lane open to the public; participation is excellent during the evening because of the industrial leagues and on Friday evening for the general public.
- C. Two Skating Rinks -- Hill's Roller Rink is located on Highway 220 north, and Jones Skating Rink is located on Highway 42.

#### Industrial Recreation

The Acme-McCrary organization in Asheboro owns the only Recreation Center Building. This building is located on North Street and is supervised by a paid Recreational Professional. With a qualified staff, and such recreation facilities as listed below, a well rounded program of recreation is offered to the employees of Acme-McCrary:

- A. Recreation Center Building
  - Gymnasium, regulation size, stage and 750 seating capacity
  - Indoor Swimming Pool -- 25' x 75' --depth 3'1/4 x 8', dressing rooms to serve gymnasium and pool.
  - Cafeteria seating 165
  - Vending area
  - Club meeting rooms, with storage, restrooms and small kitchen
  - Game Room -- two billiard tables (room used for 75/100 capacity meetings)
  - Bowling Lane -- 4 Duck Pins



- B. Ball Field, lighted, fenced, 1500 seating capacity, press box, dugouts, and concession stand which is leased to the City for \$1.00 per year.

### Neighborhood Facility

Central High Gymnasium is located on Frank Street in the Northeast section of the City. This facility was the Black High School in Asheboro. The existing use is for indoor basketball and a meeting hall with a small wading pool in the rear of the facility.

### School Facilities

In addition to the school system having physical education instructors with organized athletics and play activities, the school board works closely with the city in utilizing existing facilities for recreation purposes. A list of the schools is as follows:

Asheboro High School	24 acres*
Asheboro Junior High	22 acres
North Asheboro Junior High	100 acres
Central Elementary School	10 acres
Guy B. Teachey Elementary School	23 acres
Lindley Park Elementary School	10 acres
Charles W. McCrary Elementary School	20 acres
Donna Lee Loflin Elementary School	4 acres
Balfour Elementary School	6 acres

\*All schools have playground areas

One of the City's new unwritten policies is to purchase recreation sites adjacent to school areas whenever feasible. This policy coincides with the neighborhood park concept since schools are basically located in heavily developed residential areas.

### DEVELOPING STANDARDS FOR RECREATION AREAS

In evaluating the facilities inventoried, it is necessary to develop and

adopt a system of criteria upon which to form judgement.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation utilizes an outdoor recreation area classification system which divides into six classes according to their use and natural features. This system, and supplemental data from the North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Planning Program, is described as follows:

CLASS I High density recreation areas are usually within or near major centers of urban population but may occur within such units as natural parks and forests remote from population concentrations. The activities are intensive day or weekend type, such as picnicking, water sports, group field games, winter sports and other activities for people.

CLASS II General outdoor recreation areas are relatively accessible to centers of major population and accommodate a major share of all outdoor recreation. The activities include such things as camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting, water sports, winter sports, nature walks, and outdoor games.

Classes I and II are further broken down into the following types of Areas:

#### BOR Class I -- Intensive Use Recreation

Recreation Areas serving the neighborhood

Common Designation: Play lot, tot lot, mini-park, vest-pocket park

Basic concept:

The play lot is a small, creatively landscaped area, existing or developed within densely populated and congested urban residential areas such as public housing projects. Also, it is often developed as a part of the neighborhood park or playground. These areas are usually developed for almost 100% active use, with provision for at least a minimum natural or man-made buffer or perimeter barrier. In essence, it functions as a back-



yard for preschool age children and their parents where adequate land is not available for individual yard and lawn areas. It provides for an aesthetic atmosphere in which parents can observe and supervise the free and imaginative play of their small preschool age children during daytime hours.

Size: approximately 1/4 to 1/2 acre

Service Radius: generally 1/4 mile maximum

Feature: traditional as well as imaginative play apparatus, minimum seating accommodations, landscaped buffer, and walks for access, quite often equipped with a drinking fountain.

Activities: Free play, no structured program

Responsibility: May be included in a municipal recreation system, but is also sometimes provided by housing authorities, private agencies, or joint efforts of any of above.

#### Common Designation: Playground

##### Basic Concept:

The playground is located within a neighborhood often in conjunction with an elementary school and is designed to serve the active recreation needs of children six to fifteen years of age. This type area is usually developed with about 90% of the surface area for utilization and the remainder for buffer. It is used primarily during the day hours.

Size: approximately 2 to 5 acres

Service Radius: Generally 3/8 mile maximum

Features: Apparatus area, multi-use courts shelter structure, and open space.

Activities: May be supervised summer program only but preferably year round.

Responsibility: Usually operated by municipal recreation system but may be provided by various private agencies.

Common Designation: Neighborhood ParkBasic Concept:

This area is usually landscaped open space found at various points within a city that are not suitable or desirable for other types of development (such as flood plains, drainage ways, etc.). It serves as a place where the passive leisure interest and relaxation needs of all ages can be met. Usually, no more than 50% of the surface area is developed for informal active recreation with the rest being primarily natural open space.

Size: approximately 3 to 7 acres

Service Radius: generally 1/2 mile maximum

Features: Lawn, shrubbery, walks, dispersed seating accommodations.

Activities: Unstructured free play and leisure relaxation

Responsibility: usually maintained by municipal park and/or recreation system although sometimes responsibility or municipal public works department.

Common Designation: Combined Neighborhood Park and PlaygroundBasic Concept:

Commonly existing or developed within built-up urban residential areas, the neighborhood park and playground offers the residents of the neighborhood an attractive, diversified landscape in conjunction with a traditional playground area. The development of this type area is usually for no more than 50% of the surface area being used for active recreation. In this respect, it serves the functions of providing an aesthetically pleasing open space for the passive outdoor recreation pursuits of all ages while offering a safe apparatus and court area for the active and imaginative play of children. It is primarily used during the day and



evening hours. In some cases, this area may include a little league ball field or softball field. Also, may be developed in conjunction with an elementary school.

Size: approximately 3 to 6 acres

Service Radius: generally 1/2 mile maximum

Features: Contrasting land surfaces, vegetative growth for the provision of shade and eye appeal, apparatus and court area, functionally dispersed adult seating accommodations, small service building with restrooms and storage, and space for informal field sports. Occasionally minimum picnicking accommodations are included.

Activities: May include a supervised summer playground program but primarily unstructured free play and leisure relaxation.

Responsibility: Usually operated by municipal recreation system.

### Recreation Areas Serving the Community

Common Designation: Playfield

Basic Concept:

It is usually found or developed within urban centers of population and so located as to serve several neighborhoods comprising a community. The playfield comprises an area sufficient in size to accommodate the various field and competitive sports that form a large portion of the active outdoor recreation desire of youth and adults. This area is usually developed so that about 90% of the surface area is for active, organized recreation with about 10% for buffer. May be developed in conjunction with Junior or Senior High School. Recreation opportunities offered are engaged in primarily during day and evening hours.

Size: approximately 6 to 20 acres

Service Radius: generally 2 1/2 miles maximum

Features: Courts and open areas for sports; perimeter landscaping, buffer zones, and walks; small service building with restrooms, storage, and may include space for concession operation; also provision for parking and night lighting.

Activities: Organized competitive games and sports for teams or individuals, under supervision.

Responsibility: Maintained and operated by municipal recreation system in most cases, but may be provided by various private agencies.

Common Designation: Community Park

Basic Concept:

This area is located or developed within urban residential areas and serves a rather defined community (i.e., population served by a junior high school). Through the provision of a center building, field areas, hard surface areas, apparatus, open space, and landscaped areas, the community park accommodates a variety of indoor and outdoor, active and passive recreational opportunities for all ages. A recreation area of this type is usually developed so that from 75% to 90% of the surface area is for active recreation pursuits with remaining portion being natural. May be developed in conjunction with junior or senior high school. Its primary use occurs during the day and evening hours.

Size: approximately 20 to 50 acres

Service Radius: generally 2 1/2 miles maximum

Features: Various hard surface courts and turf fields recreation center building, may include traditional playground area (pool). Also, provision for parking and night lighting and possibly some picnicking.



Activities: Full range of recreation opportunities under Class I day and evening use stipulations.

Responsibility: Municipal recreation systems are primary operators of this type area.

### Recreation Areas Serving the City

#### Common Designation: City-wide Park

##### Basic Concept:

The city-wide park is located usually within or just outside large urban areas and serves a population of up to 50,000 to 100,000. The basic concept is similar to that of a community park, but on a larger scale (i.e., serves area usually served by a high school). It also provides more diversified recreation opportunities such as nature interpretation, summer day camps, and a pool and/or access to a body of water. As with the community park, this type of area is usually developed so that from 75% to 90% of the surface area is for active recreation with remaining portion natural. As with Class I areas, use is primarily restricted to day and early evening. A large city may have more than one of these type areas.

Size: approximately 50 to 100 acres

Service Radius: 15 miles maximum (preferably less)

Features: A quantity of game and sport fields and courts, accommodations for water related activities, recreation center and special use buildings, trails through undeveloped natural areas.

Activities: Full range of recreation opportunities and programs meeting the stipulations of Class I day and evening use. (Limited organized overnight use optional).

Responsibility: Mainly operated by single municipality but sometimes developed through cooperative agreement of more than one municipality.

BOR Class II - General Outdoor Recreation AreasRecreation Areas Serving the County or Multi-County AreaCommon Designation: County/District Park (Intensive Development)Basic Concept:

More remotely located from urban centers than Class I areas, the intensively developed county/district park serves the residents of one or more non-urban communities and may be developed in conjunction with a secondary county school. Through the provision of a recreation center building, field areas, hard surface areas, apparatus, open space, and landscaped areas, this type of recreation area accommodates a variety of indoor and outdoor, active and passive recreation desires for all ages. The surface area is usually developed so that from 75% to 90% is for active recreation pursuits with the remaining portion being natural. Its primary use occurs during day and evening hours.

Size: approximately 20 to 50 acres

Service Radius: generally 15 to 20 miles maximum

Features: Various hard surface courts and turf fields, recreation center building, may include playground area and/or pool. Also, provision for parking, night lighting, and possible some picnicking.

Activities: Full range of recreation opportunities, both supervised, and self-directed.

Responsibility: County government, joint county and municipal government, rural recreation districts.

Common Designation: County/District Park (Extensive Development)Basic Concept:

More remotely located from urban centers than Class I areas, the extensively developed county/district park serves the residents of a subregion comprising



either several municipalities, a large non-urban area, or any combination of the two. The more extensive passive and active outdoor recreation desires of people for day and weekend are accommodated (i.e., camping, picnicking, water activities, hiking, nature appreciation, etc.). These areas are commonly developed so that 50% of the surface area is developed for extensive recreation use of the land while the remaining 50% of the land is maintained in a natural state.

Size: approximately 100 to 500 acres

Service Radius: generally 30 miles maximum

Features: interpretive facilities, water related and enhanced areas, natural areas, open field areas.

Activities: Self-directed outdoor experience

Responsibility: Single county or cooperative agreement between two or more counties, single municipality or cooperative agreement between two or more municipalities, or any combination of the aforementioned.

#### Common Designation: Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas

##### Basic Concept:

There are a great variety of these specialized outdoor recreation areas, some of which include conservatories, flower gardens, zoos, arboretums, outdoor theaters, golf courses, ski resorts, large stadiums, and sport centers. Usually, these types of areas are developed to serve the interests of a particular user group for one specific recreational activities (i.e., snow skiing). The characteristics of development, period of use, season, and so forth are quite variable from site to site.

Size and activities: No generalized figures due to the wide variance from Service Radius:

Features: activity to activity and site to site.

Responsibility: Both public and private sectors (man so-called commercial-for-profit recreation enterprises fall into this category).

The National Recreation and Park Association recommends that a minimum of 25% of new towns, planned unit developments, and large subdivisions be devoted to park and recreation land and open space. The following table lists recreation by classification and population ratio:

( SEE NEXT PAGE FOR TABLE)



TABLE I

## MINIMUM LOCAL RECREATION STANDARDS

Facilities	Minimum Acres & Fac. Per Thousand People	Minimum Acreage per Facility	Accessibility (Distance from every home)
Playlot	1/4 acre per 1000 1 facility per 800	1/4 acre	1/8 mile
Neighborhood Playground	1 1/2 acres per 1000 1 facility per 3000	4+ acres	1/2 mile
Baseball Diamonds	1 field per 6000	3 acres	1/2 mile
Softball Diamonds	1 field per 3000	2 acres	1/2 mile
Neighborhood Parks	1 acre per 1000	6 acres	3/4 mile
Recreation Centers	1 facility per 40,000	5 acres	1 mile
Auditorium	1 facility per 50,000	4 acres	2 miles
Major Park	4 acres per 1000 1 facility per 40,000	50 acres	3 to 4 miles
Regional or County Parks	10 acres per 1000	Several hundred to 1000 acres or more	Include entire region
Environmental Areas	1 acre per 1000	1/8 acre	1/2 mile
Recreation Building	1 facility per 25000	1 acre	1/8 mile
Playfield	1 1/2 acres per 1000	20 acres	1 mile
(Artificial) Skating Rinks Indoor or outdoor	1 facility per 25000	2 acres	2 miles
Skating Rink, Natural Outdoor	1 facility per 3000	1 acre	1/4 to 1/2 mile

Minimum Local Recreation Standards  
Table I continued

Swimming Pools (Indoor)	1 facility per 10000 15 sq. ft. per swimmer	2 acres	1/2 to 1 mile
Swimming Pools (Outdoor)	1 facility per 40000 20 sq. ft. per swimmer deck and water	5 acres	1/2 to 1 mile
Tennis Courts	1 facility per 2000	2 acres (battery of 4)	1/4 to 1 mile



TABLE II

## RECOMMENDED DIMENSIONS FOR GAME AREAS

GAME	ELEMENTARY	JUNIOR HIGH	HIGH SCHOOL	AREA SIZE INCLUDING BUFFER SPACE
Basketball	40' x 60'	50' x 74'	50' x 84'	7,200 sq. ft.
Basketball (College)			50' x 94'	8,000 sq. ft.
Volleyball	25' x 50'	25' x 50'	30' x 60'	2,800 sq. ft.
Badminton			20' x 44'	1,800 sq. ft.
Paddle Tennis			20' x 44'	1,800 sq. ft.
Deck Tennis			18' x 40'	1,250 sq. ft.
Tennis		36' x 78'	26' x 78'	6,500 sq. ft.
Ice Hockey			85' x 200'	17,000 sq. ft.
Field Hockey			180' x 300'	64,000 sq. ft.
Horseshoes		10' x 40'	10' x 50'	1,000 sq. ft.
Shuffleboard			6' x 52'	640 sq. ft.
Lawn Bowling			14' x 110'	1,800 sq. ft.
Boccie			15' x 75'	1,950 sq. ft.
Tetherball	10' circle	12' circle	12' circle	400 sq. ft.
Croquet	38' x 60'	38' x 60'	38' x 60'	2,200 sq. ft.
Rogue			30' x 60'	2,400 sq. ft.
Handball	18' x 26'	18' x 26'	20' x 40'	1,200 sq. ft.
Baseball	210' x 210'	300' x 300'	400 x 400'	160,000 sq. ft.
Archery		50' x 150'	50' x 300'	20,000 sq. ft.
Softball (12"ball)	150' x 150'	200' x 200'	275' x 275'	75,000 sq. ft.
Football			160' x 360'	80,000 sq. ft.

## RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN

The important ideas to keep in mind are that the number, type, and distribution of Asheboro's parks in the southern portion of the city seem to be adequate; however, major expansions of land areas in the northern portion of the city as well as acquisition of additional facilities and equipment will be necessary to meet local needs and national standards. The various parks and recreation areas are discussed as follows. Emphasis is placed on improving physical quality of each park or recreation area.

Frazier Park. This park's existing equipment and facilities appear to be of fair quality and in adequate type and numbers.

Existing: Craft shelters (12' x 12'), 10' x 20' wading pool, playground equipment and four (4) picnic tables.

Proposed: Park craft shelter, with restrooms and storage, landscaping, addition of permanent picnic stoves.

Hammer Memorial Park. This park is located on Glenwood Road and is adequate as a neighborhood park.

Existing: Picnic tables (4), playground equipment, picnic stoves, small paved basketball court.

Proposed: Landscape and repair existing equipment.

Westwood Park. This site could serve as an adequate neighborhood playground; however, there are problems equipping the site. This site was recommended as a neighborhood park in Asheboro's 1967 Action Program for Recreation. Also, this site is one of the 1976 recommendations for a neighborhood park facility.

Proposed: Remove two (2) trees, grade and grass; provide backstop for youth softball diamond. Build new park shelter with restrooms and storage.

Redding Road and Avondale Road Park. There has been a problem and/or lack of



interest in developing this area. The site was proposed as a neighborhood park in Asheboro's 1967 Action Program for Recreation. When the site is developed, the area should be left in its natural setting.

Recommendation: There has been no capital investment on the development of this site as a park, and the question should be answered as to whether financial resources should be allocated to those sites which were the result of capital expenditures or not.

Shannon Road and Avondale Road. This park site is located in the general vicinity of Redding and Avondale Road. Also, this is an undeveloped site which was recommended in the 1967 Asheboro's Action Program for Recreation. These two sites are typical areas that developers donated as recreation sites.

Recommendation: No capital investments have been made for the site. However, the proximity of the site to local houses and the church lend the site to the possibility of partial development into a park that would service the local residents and local church activities.

Park Street Park. This park is rather small and is only used as a family picnic area. The overall quality of the park could be increased by expanding its size to approximately an acre. Also, the park quality could be improved by adding additional facilities other than picnic areas and improve the maintenance program.

Existing: Picnic tables, water fountain

Recommendation: The park has a character of a small green picnic area with a stream. The recommendation for this site is to repair existing facilities, such as picnic tables, and recreation wheel, and construct a new, wider, and more stable footbridge along with providing additional picnic tables. Install picnic stoves.

Pump Station #1. This site is another unimplemented recommendation made in 1967. If developed, the site would provide an additional ten acres of recreation to the West Street area residents.

Recommendation: To delete this area as a park site.

Memorial Park. This park is the largest complete recreational site in the city.



The park's existing equipment and facilities are of good quality.

Recommendation: It is recommended that additional land be acquired west of existing park (American Legion Building, etc.), thus, additional development could occur. Also, construct a community center site, by removing existing bathhouse, for office and indoor recreation space. The services of an architect should be utilized in order to plan effective utilization of space. General landscaping would improve greatly the overall appearance of the site. More playground facilities should be provided for small children. Further recommendations for this site concur with those of the 1967 Action Program for Recreation.

Asheboro's Mini-Parks. These parks are well outfitted with the necessary equipment and appurtenances. Several physical improvements would enhance the utility of the parks. Also, the location of sites, especially within the NDP area, are inadequate. One of the major criteria in locating mini-parks is to locate the site so that proper parental supervision is available. One particular mini-park is isolated in the northern end of the low income housing project.

Tucker Street Mini-Park. This site is located at the corner of Tucker and Cross Streets within the Eastern Asheboro Neighborhood Development Project NC A-19. This site is now in its developmental stage and will be completed soon. The park will be designed to serve the local residents of the area as a meeting place with benches and a drinking fountain. The park will be constructed with the Urban Renewal funds for the Asheboro Redevelopment Commission.

Kiwanis Park. This is the newest of Asheboro's parks. The quality of the existing area is good and meets the national standards for establishing such a park.

Recommendation: This park has been recently developed and some additional facilities if added would produce more efficient amenities for the users. Additional facilities such as picnic tables, some playground-type equipment and bleachers for spectators should be added to the site.

Asheboro Public Housing Mini-Park Areas: These areas are located in the Asheboro Public Housing Project and are in the planning stages of development..

Recommendation: These are still in the planning stage and will be developed as soon as possible. However, care should be exercised not to



duplicate facilities already existant at nearby parks, such as Frasier and Memorial.

A problem in providing recreation for the citizens of Asheboro is that of physical barriers. The accessibility and safety of a park site are two of the chief factors which determine the location of a recreation facility. In order to locate sites which are easily accessible and safe, and therefore, desirable as proposed playground or neighborhood park areas, a careful study of physical barriers such as commercial and industrial areas, railroads and key highway arteries and other non-residential areas were made. Existing barriers such as U. S. 220 Bypass and U. S. 220 Business create problems in providing recreation for North Asheboro. The northern section of the city is long and narrow as well as being bisected by the previously mentioned thoroughfares; thus, the location of a central park within the area becomes a problem.

The following are the basic requirements in program planning. In evaluating Asheboro's on-going recreation program, the basic requirements will give some indication of the city's weaknesses and strong points in its recreation program.

## RECOMMENDED RECREATION PROGRAM

### Basic Requirements in Program Planning

Regardless of the community, there are certain basic needs that must be considered in developing a recreation program. The basic needs involved in the provision of the following opportunities to satisfy the common needs or urges of people, both young and old, in the pursuit of leisure time activities.<sup>1</sup>

1. The opportunity to engage in physical activity. Activities that can be provided to satisfy this need for physical activity include team games, dual games, and low organized games.

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<sup>1</sup>North Carolina Division of Recreation, Recreation Training Bulletin, (NC Department of Natural and Economic Resources, Raleigh, NC), 1972

2. The opportunity to be creative and to have a feeling of accomplishment.

Leadership and guidance in art and craft activities designed to the skill and ability of the individual will provide the opportunities to satisfy the creative urge.

3. The opportunity to satisfy the social urge. People like to get together.

Activities that can be included in the program to meet this need are parties, family fun nights, picnics, club activities, community sings, festivals, etc.

### Program Content<sup>2</sup>

1. Athletics. Athletic activities need to be provided for boys and girls, men

and women. For the adults, the recreation leaders should organize evening competition in the form of leagues, tournaments, and other special events in athletic activities, such as softball, volleyball, tennis, horseshoes, badminton, archery, shuffleboard, paddle tennis, table tennis, etc. Equipment should be provided, schedules drawn, and officials provided. The workers will need to organize the activity and provide the stimulus and publicity to keep it going.

2. Low organized games. The younger children enjoy games which can be readily learned and which do not require complicated rules. Many of these games are valuable for use on hikes, picnics, camping, trips, and for formal use on the playground by older groups, also. Such games are (1) signing games, (2) circle games, (3) line games, (4) running games, (5) relay races, etc.

3. Arts and crafts. Specific instruction periods should be assigned for arts and crafts in the weekly schedule, at which time a special instructor, or a

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



playground teacher, or the recreation director will supervise and direct the work. Adequate facilities for carrying on this work should be maintained and proper tools be supplied. Often volunteers can be used as instructors whose services do much to expand and improve the program.

4. Dramatics. Children, as well as adults, enjoy "acting". Opportunities for expression of these desires can be given on the playground through short skits, a minstrel show, impersonations, a playground circus, puppet show, one-act plays, reading and acting out short stories, story telling, pantomines, tableau, charades and similar dramatic activities. Frequently, periods during the day between strenuous physical activities may be utilized for dramatics. However, definite time should be scheduled on the program for such activities.
5. Music. In some communities music directors will be available to conduct many recreation activities in this field. Close cooperation between the music personnel and music director of the summer recreation program will make it possible for music to take its proper place in the recreation life of the community. Band, orchestra, chorus, vocal and instrumental groups might be organized. Community songs, quiz programs, "barber shop quartet" contests, stunt nights and special numbers by playground groups might be held in conjunction with the weekly band concerts. Harmonica club, rhythm band, whistling, toy symphony, yodeling, bonfire and campfire sings and singing games are music activities that can be conducted on the playground by the leader with little or no music ability. Volunteer leaders may assist with these activities.
6. Special events. In order to maintain interest in the recreation program it is essential that certain features be developed which will enable the program to generate special interest for short periods of time and which serve as a theme during that specific time in developing and carrying out the total program. Special features may occupy interest for only a day or two, or a week, or for



several weeks. It should be emphasized; however, that no successful recreation program (one which maintains a high degree of interest and one which reaches a high percentage of the population) can continue on the basis of a day plan without the use of some well chosen special events: Doll Shows, Pet Shows, Special Days, Fourth of July Celebrations, etc.

7. Outing Activities. Children and adults like activities which are different and provide some variety to the daily schedule. The recreation leader should plan to conduct outing activities as a part of the program. Foremost in one's planning should be provision for nature activities, such as bird hunts, wild-flower and tree identification, geology hikes, etc. Trips to points of interest are popular.
8. Activities for little children. Provisions for a recreation program should be made for little children, the age group of three to five or pre-school age. Specific activities as story telling, sandbox play, quiet games with interest and work with interest, and work with crayons, paper, paste, etc. This group can take much of the leader's time and bother the activities of the older groups unless given something of short interest span and interesting to do.
9. Club activities. The director of the program will find it to his advantage to make use of clubs in setting up an expanded program which reaches adults and youths. Of special value are craft, hobby and special interests, such as trout fly tying, model airplane or boat building, fly and bait casting, archery, horseshoes, knitting, needlecraft, puppetry, chorus, etc. The leader should provide a place to meet, announcements of meetings, publicity, and any other assistance needed to make the club function. Volunteer leaders interested in the activity will usually serve as instructors and supervisors of club activity.
10. Social recreation. Older boys and girls, young adults, and adult groups might



well be provided with opportunities for social recreation. Community sings, parties, festivals, celebrations, picnics, and dancing are all possibilities in program. The teenage center will not be a cure-all, but fits into the program as one device to help meet the need for social recreation among the younger groups.

11. Picnics. A picnic service that each leader should supply consists of two parts:

- a. A picnic kit - available for loan to organizations or groups. Sometimes a deposit fee is charged for the kit. A list of the game equipment should be given out with the kit in order to keep up with supplies. A program with suggestions on using the equipment with game rules is valuable.
- b. The leader should publicize this service and encourage the public to make use of the kit. It is an excellent way of advertising your program.

These general recommendations are for the program framework, a general overall formula that every recreation program should strive to emulate. The recreation director would be responsible for the specific program details that hopefully would carry out the overall program (such as those mentioned above) needed to cater to each age, sex, and interested group.

#### RECOMMENDED ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION

It is recommended that Asheboro reactivate the Recreation Advisory Board. The Advisory Board should act as does the Planning Board or any other advisory board. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should recommend or advise, the City Council should make the decisions, and the City Manager should implement utilizing the recreation staff.

#### Staff Requirements

It is suggested that the Recreation Director be responsible for the planning, organizing, initiating, administering, and the supervising of recreational programs; coordinating with organized sporting activities such as the Little League and Midget

League Football. The director should have a sufficient staff to adequately administer the present and proposed programs. Support staff in the way of a secretary, maintenance personnel, and volunteer assistance should be determined by the director.



RESPONSIBILITIES

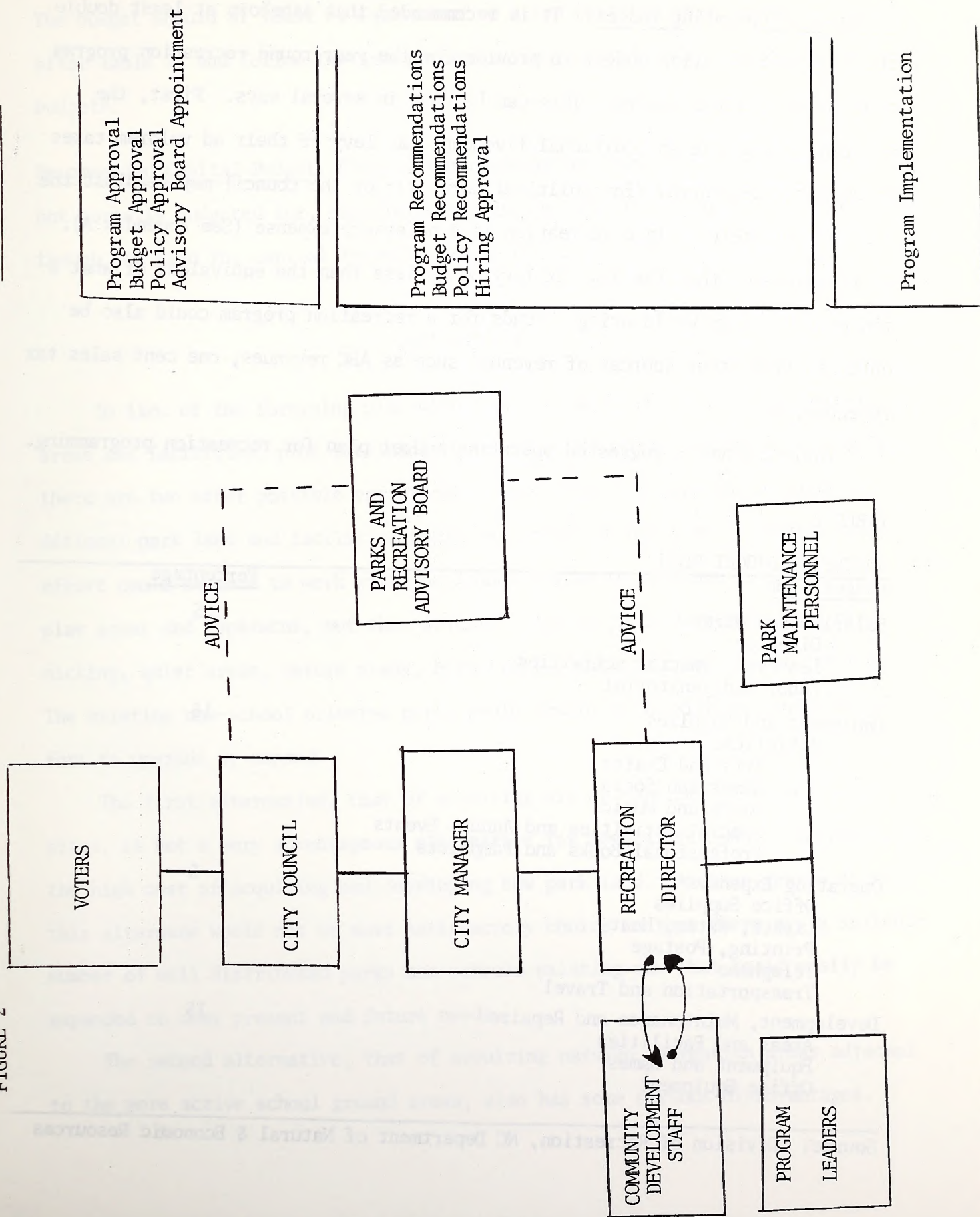


FIGURE 2

Budget

Recommended Operating Budget. It is recommended that Asheboro at least double the present recreation budget to provide for the year-round recreation program that local citizens desire. This can be done in several ways. First, the citizens could vote an additional five cent tax levy of their ad valorem taxes to support the program (for political harmony); or the council may readjust the tax levy themselves since recreation is a necessary expense (See Appendix A). It is suggested that the new tax levy be no less than the equivalent of what a ten cent tax levy would bring. Funds for a recreation program could also be obtained from other sources of revenue; such as ABC revenues, one cent sales tax revenues, etc.

Table 2 gives a suggested operating budget plan for recreation programming.

TABLE 2

SUGGESTED BUDGET PLAN

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Salaries and Wages	65
Director	
Leaders - special activities	
Labor and janitorial	
Equipment and Supplies	15
Athletics:	
Arts and Crafts	
Games and Social	
Dance and Music	
Special Activities and Annual Events	
Professional Books and Pamphlets	
Operating Expenses	5
Office Supplies	
Lights, Water, Heat	
Printing, Postage	
Telephone	
Transportation and Travel	
Development, Maintenance and Repairs	15
Areas and Facilities	
Equipment and Games	
Office Equipment	

Source: Division of Recreation, NC Department of Natural & Economic Resources



A definite budget for the operation of a recreation program cannot be set up until the number of leaders, projects, and length of operation is determined. The budget should at least be equivalent to a ten cent tax levy, be patterned after Table 2, and follow the average annual incremental increases of the past budgets.

Recommended Capital Budget. Capital improvements are admittedly expensive and not normally budgeted for, especially not in the operating budget. It is wise, though, to plan for capital improvements before the needs occur.

### ALTERNATIVES

In lieu of the foregoing plan with emphasis on expanding existing park areas and facilities, plus retaining the present school-recreation relationship, there are two other possible variations on the above. First, all or some additional park land and facilities could be located on new sites. Second, an effort could be made to work with the school system to continue to use school play areas and apparatus, but then acquire adjacent underdeveloped land picnicking, quiet areas, nature study, bike trails, and other non-play activities. The existing non-school oriented parks would remain as is with no concerted effort to upgrade or expand.

The first alternative, that of acquiring all or some new park land on new sites, is not a very advantageous alternative for several reasons. One reason is the high cost of acquiring and developing new park land. Another reason is that this alternate would not be most satisfactory choice in that there are a suitable number of well distributed parks and schools existing now that could easily be expanded to meet present and future needs.

The second alternative, that of acquiring passive recreation areas adjacent to the more active school ground areas, also has some serious disadvantages.

Land adjacent to school sites is not in most cases suitable for natural areas, and even if the land were available, it is or will be needed for expansion of the school's physical plant and the attached active recreation facilities.

Consequently, it is felt that the recommended program of expansion of the existing park sites and a continuation of the harmonious relationship between the schools and the parks and recreation areas would be the best recreational solution for Asheboro. It is felt this is the best solution because the parks and schools are well distributed throughout the community and easily reached by foot, bicycle, or car and the cost of acquiring and developing several new sites would be prohibitive and unnecessary. In short, the recommended program is simply the most economical and the most effective means of achieving recreation goals for Asheboro.

#### PROGRAM FOR ACTION

The following steps are recommended for achieving maximum success with the recreation program.

1. Reactivate the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
2. Utilize Asheboro's 1967 Action Program for Recreation. The report is still viable.
3. Utilize the Community Development Staff for short and long range planning. Their basic functions should be to check future land acquisition as they relate to the City's comprehensive Land Development Plan.
4. Seek increased cooperation with the YMCA.
5. The city should equip and expand existing facilities.
6. Acquire additional land in North Asheboro. Suggested sites are: (see map)
  - A. The vicinity of Canoy Drive and W. Strider Street. This is a twenty-five (25) acre site with three (3) small lakes.
  - B. The vicinity of Hub Morris Road and Gold Hill Road. The recreation map will show additional sites; however, these are top priority.



7. Program necessary capital improvements (land acquisition, swimming pool, etc).
8. The recreation program in Asheboro would continue to cater to the needs of local citizens by offering a wide variety of recreational choices.
9. It is advisable for Asheboro if financing the proposed program herein is a problem, to seek help from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) for financial assistance.
10. The city should encourage private businesses, especially industries, to increase or improve commercial recreation.
11. Asheboro should amend their subdivision regulations relating to donation of open space. A proposed amendment is listed in Appendix B.
12. Acquire additional recreational land in South Asheboro (Teachey School area) for development of a neighborhood facility.
13. Explore the possibility of utilizing local garden clubs, civic organizations, and interested groups for the development of public facilities on a volunteer basis.
14. A system of regular maintenance be implemented. The Staff of the Recreation Department should be examined to determine if it is sufficient to provide the needed programs for the community.
15. Contract with a Landscape Architect in order to get professional advice on total utilization of existing park sites.

#### APPENDIX A

#### RECREATION ENABLING LAW

#### OF

#### NORTH CAROLINA

(North Carolina General Statutes, Ch. 160A, Art. 18)

#### ARTICLE 18

#### Parks and Recreation

§ 160A-350. Short title. - This Article shall be known and may be cited as the "Recreation Enabling Law."

§ 160A-351. Declaration of State Policy. - The lack of adequate recreational programs and facilities is a menace to the morals, happiness, and welfare of the people of this State. Making available recreational opportunities for citizens of



all ages is a subject of general interest and concern, and a function requiring appropriate action by both State and local government. The General Assembly therefore declares that the public good and the general welfare of the citizens of this State require adequate recreation programs, that the creation, establishment, and operation of parks and recreation programs is a proper governmental function, and that it is the policy of North Carolina to forever encourage, foster, and provide these facilities and programs for all its citizens.

§ 160A-352. Recreation defined. - "Recreation" means activities that are diversionary in character and aid in promoting entertainment, pleasure, relaxation, instruction, and other physical, mental and cultural development and leisure time experiences.

§ 160A-353. Powers. - In addition to any other powers it may possess to provide for the general welfare of its citizens, each county and city in this State shall have authority to:

- (1) establish and conduct a system of supervised recreation;
- (2) set apart land and buildings for parks, playgrounds, recreational centers, and other recreational programs and facilities;
- (3) acquire real property, including water and air rights, for parks and recreation programs and facilities by gift, grant, purchase, lease, exercise of the power of eminent domain or any other lawful method;
- (4) provide, acquire, construct, equip, operate, and maintain parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, and recreation facilities, including all buildings, structures, and equipment necessary or useful in connection therewith;
- (5) appropriate funds to carry out the provision of this Article;
- (6) accept any gift, grant, lease, loan, bequest, or devise of real or personal property for parks and recreation programs. Devises, bequest, and gifts may be accepted and held subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the grantor or trustor, except that no county or city may accept or administer any terms that require it to discriminate among its citizens on the basis of race, sex, or religion.

§ 160A-354. Administration of parks and recreation programs. - A city or county may operate a parks and recreation system as a line department, or it may create a parks and recreation commission and vest in it authority to operate the



parks and recreation system.

§ 160A-355. Joint parks and recreation systems. - Any two or more units of local government may cooperate in establishing parks and recreation systems as authorized in Article 20, Part 1, of this Chapter.

\* § 160A-356. Financing parks and recreation. - Each county and city is authorized to expend for its parks and recreation system any of its revenues not otherwise limited as to use by law. Locally levied taxes may be used for parks and recreation purposes only to the extent approved by the qualified voters of the county or city. Bonds and notes may be issued for parks and recreation purposes only if approved by the qualified voters of the county and city.

\* § 160A-357. Referendum on establishment of system. - The governing board of any county or city may on its own initiative, and shall upon receipt of a petition from its qualified voters, submit to the voters the question of whether a system of supervised recreation shall be established in the county or city. The petition shall be signed by a number of qualified voters equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the number of voters registered to vote in the county or city according to the most recent figures certified by the State Board of Elections. The proposition may be submitted at a special election called for that purpose, or at any other special or general election or proposition referendum. Propositions for the levy or use of taxes for parks and recreation purposes and the issuance of bonds for these purposes may be placed on the same ballot, but shall be stated as separate and distinct propositions. If the voters approve a proposition to establish a park and recreation system but disapprove tax or bond propositions, it shall be the duty of the governing board to establish the system only if sufficient nontax revenues are available to it for that purpose.

This section shall not be construed to require voter approval for the establishment of a parks and recreation system financed by nontax revenues.

Recreation Division

Dept. of Natural and Economic Resources

P.O. Box 27687

Enacted 1971 General Assembly

Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Effective January 1, 1972

\*Footnote - Sections 160A-356 and 160A-357 have been effectively changed by 160A-209(24). 160A-209 (24) has made 356 and 357 inapplicable in that municipalities and/or counties may now expend tax monies to establish, support, maintain public parks and programs or public recreation without further approval.

#### APPENDIX B

##### DEDICATION OF LAND FOR RECREATION AND PARK PURPOSES.

Every subdivider who proposed a subdivision of land for residential purposes shall dedicate a portion of such land, as set forth in this ordinance, for the purpose of park, recreation, and open space sites to serve the residents of the neighborhood in which the subdivision is located.

A. Amount and Nature of Land Required to be Dedicated. One thirtieth of an acre will be dedicated for each dwelling unit provided for in the preliminary plat. This shall include single family units, multi-family units, and mobile homes. All land dedicated for recreation, park, or open space development shall substantially meet the following criteria:

1. Unity. The dedicated land shall form a single parcel of land except where it is determined by the Planning Board that two or more parcels would be in the public interest; and in such case, the Board may require that such parcels be connected by a dedicated strip of land at least thirty (30) feet in width.

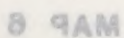


2. Shape. The shape of the dedicated parcel of land shall be sufficiently square or round to be usable for recreation activities such as softball, tennis, croquet, and similar activities.
  3. Location. The dedicated land shall be located so as to reasonably serve the recreation and open space needs of the subdivision for which the dedication was made.
  4. Access. Public access to the dedicated land shall be provided either by adjoining street frontage or public easement at least thirty (30) feet in width.
  5. Topography. Slope on areas dedicated for recreation shall not exceed five (5) percent, unless all topography dictates otherwise.
  6. Usableness. The dedicated land shall be usable for recreation; lakes and other bodies of water shall not be included in computing dedicated land area.
- B. Payments in Lieu of Dedication of Land. The subdivider may with the consent of the City Council make a payment in lieu of dedication of land pursuant to this Section. In such case, the payment shall be equal to one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for each dwelling unit in the subdivision. Any payments received by the City pursuant to this paragraph shall be used only for the acquisition of recreation, park or open space sites.
- C. Authority to Sell. The City Council shall have the authority to sell land dedicated pursuant to this section, but the proceeds of any such sale shall be used only for the acquisition of other recreation, park, or open space sites in the same neighborhood for which the original land was dedicated.





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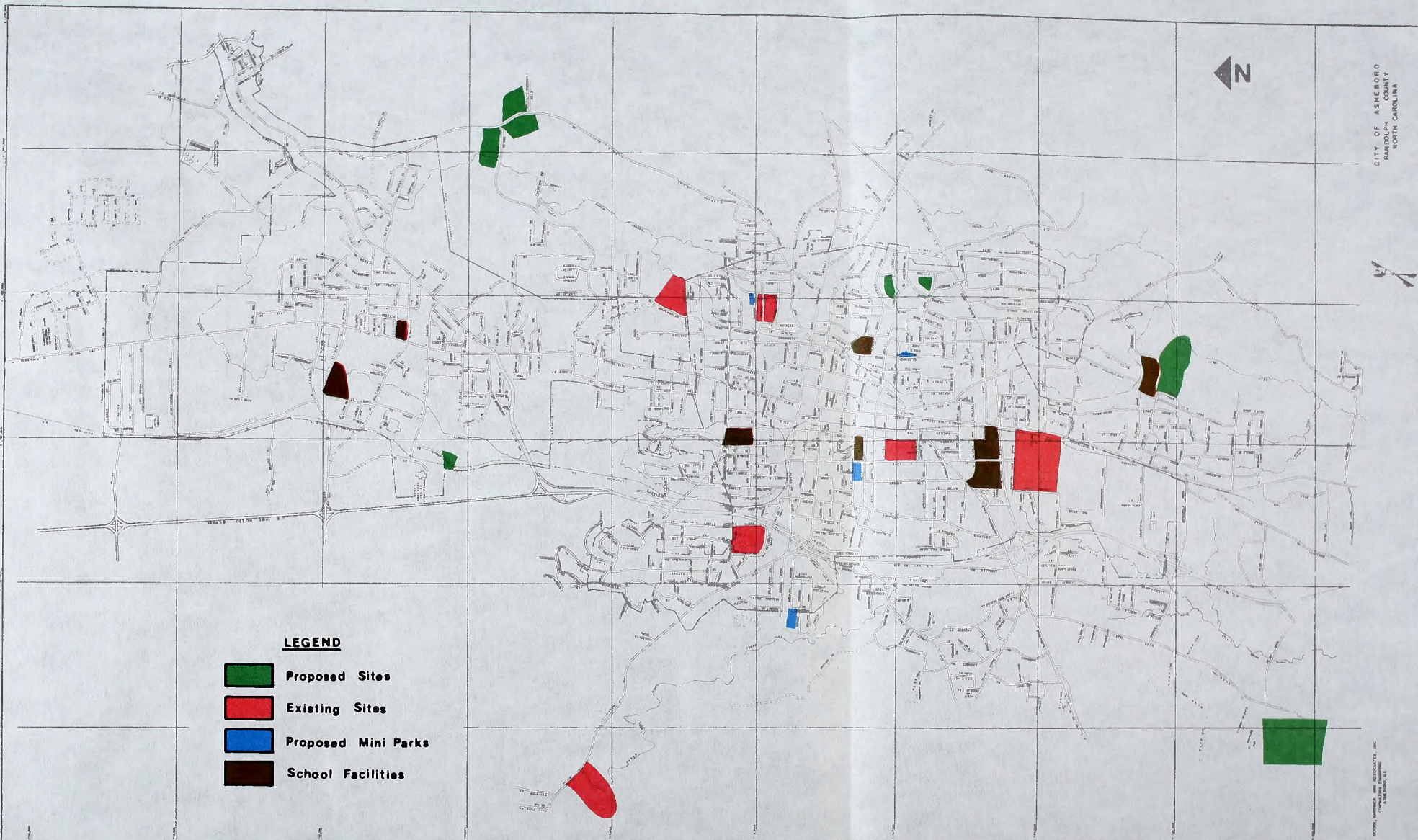








CITY OF ASHEBORO  
RANDOLPH COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA



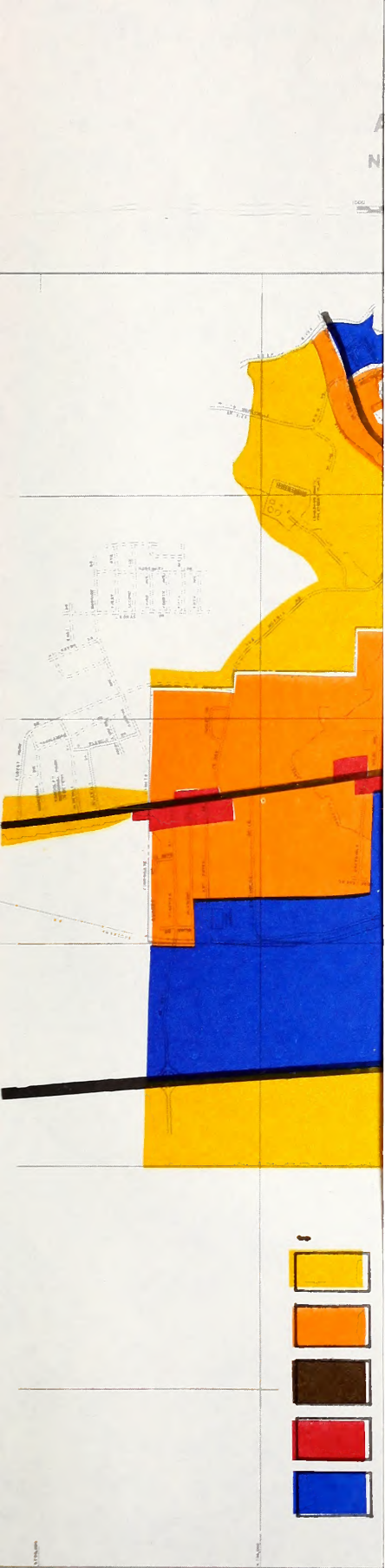
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RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE CITY OF ASHEBORO  
NORTH CAROLINA







RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES CITY OF  
 ASHEBORO  
 NORTH CAROLINA





CITY OF  
ASHEBORO  
NORTH CAROLINA



LAND DEVELOPMENT  
and  
SKETCH THOROUGHFARE PLAN

CITY OF ASHEBORO  
RANDOLPH COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA



**LEGEND**



- Low Density Residential
- Medium Density Residential
- High Density Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial

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DATE: [illegible]







